STATE LIBRARY OF PENNSYLVANIA
3 0144 00608691 2
PY D3313.4

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE
STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

15 October 1951

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 10

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL RELEASES CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION TAGS

1. Pennsylvania civil defense officials should disregard the following two (2) recent releases from the Federal Civil Defense Administration:

(a) Advisory Bulletin No. 69, dated September 20, 1951, to State Civil Defense Directors and Civil Defense Directors of United States cities of over 40,000 Population on the subject of Identification Tags for Civilians. This bulletin states, in part, "The procurement and distribution of identification devices . . . is the responsibility of the State civil defense agencies."

(b) Press Release No. 159 - 8291 (no date) which recommends, "that every civilian in the United States and its territories wear an identification tag bearing his name and address, blood type, religion and the name and address of a person to be notified in case of injury or death."

2. The principal reasons why these two releases should be disregarded are as follows:

(a) Insofar as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is concerned, the State Council of Civil Defense (rather than the Federal Civil Defense Administration) will establish policies and issue rules and orders concerning the wearing of identification tags and similar matters.

(b) The State Council of Civil Defense has been studying the entire problem of identification tags for civilians. While final decision on the matter will have to await appropriation action by the General Assembly, it is obvious that the issuance of personal identification tags will have to be handled locally and each citizen probably will be expected to pay at least a part of the cost of his or her tag.

(c) Medical authorities time and again have pointed out the fact that it is physically impossible to type the blood of every citizen of Pennsylvania, let alone that of all residents of the United States. The State Council of Civil Defense, working with representatives of the State Department of Health, has been formulating plans for a statewide emergency blood program. These shortly will be submitted to a special medical and hospital advisory committee for criticism, review and possible alteration. Then they will be released to local civil defense officials and the public.

3. Unless the international situation calls for prior release of the preliminary details, full particulars concerning the State Council's plans for identification tags and emergency blood supplies will be made public shortly after the General Assembly adjourns, when the exact funds available for the State civil defense program will be definitely known.

Richard Gerstell
Richard Gerstell
Director of Civil Defense

RG:mfr